

The Right to Vote

The constitutional right to vote is a sacred tradition in our country. Your participation in elections ensures that our society continues to uphold the ideals of a democratic government that represents all citizens.

“Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the right to vote except the American people themselves... by not voting.”

*Franklin D. Roosevelt
U.S. President, 1933-1945*

Registering to Vote

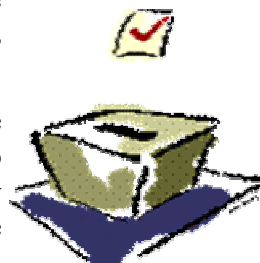
To register to vote, you must complete a voter registration application. You must provide your:

- **name**
- **residential address**
- **birth date**
- **original signature**
- **a voter identification number** (either your driver's license number or part of your social security number)
- if it is your first time to register, a copy of **personal identification** that shows your current name and address

You may register to vote in person at your county voter registration office. You may also use a mail-in voter registration application that is available online with the Indiana Election Division or at your local license branch,

public library, township trustee or city/town clerk-treasurer's office.

In the event that you have moved, to protect your right to vote you must notify the county voter registration office where you currently live that you wish to be registered at your new address.



Voting Procedures

If you are unsure about where your polling place is located, call your county election board or local newspaper. Instructions on how to cast your ballot will be provided at your polling place and explained to you by poll workers.

Voter Eligibility

You are qualified to vote in the 2006 General Election and should register if you:

- are a citizen of the United States.
- are at least 18 years old on or before Election day.
- reside in your precinct at least 29 days before the election in which you will be voting.
- are not currently in prison after being convicted of a crime.
- apply to register to vote at least 29 days before the election in which you will be voting, and your application is approved.

Beginning in 2005, you must present a state or federal photo ID to vote.

Acceptable forms of identification are an Indiana driver's license, an Indiana ID card issued by the BMV to those who do not drive, a passport or a military ID.

No alternative forms of ID will be accepted.

For a driver's license or ID card you must provide:

- **One Primary Document**, such as birth certificate or passport
 - **One Secondary Document**, such as a bank statement or W-2 form
 - **One Proof of Social Security Number**, such as original Social Security card. For more information about how to get a Social Security card call 1-800-772-1213.
 - **One Proof of Indiana Residency**, such as a current bill with name and address. A Primary or Secondary Document may be counted as Proof of Residency as long as the applicant's name and correct address are shown on the document.
- OR -
- **Two Primary Documents**
 - **One Proof of Social Security Number**
 - **One Proof of Indiana Residency Document**

If you have further questions, please call Driver Services, at 317-233-6000, Option 2.

If a voter is unable to present ID at the polling location, they may cast a "provisional ballot," which is kept in a secrecy envelope and separate from the regular ballots. A voter has 13 days to provide proof of ID to the county clerk or county election board to have the sealed provisional ballot opened and counted. A voter may also have their provisional ballot counted by swearing by an affidavit that they are unable to afford an ID or that they have a religious objection to being photographed.

The BMV will issue a free photo ID to anyone who does not have a valid ID and will be eighteen by the next election.

For more information, contact the Election Division of the Secretary of State's office at 800-662-4941 or online at www.state.in.us/sos/elections.



Absentee Voting Procedures

You may vote by absentee ballot in Indiana if you are a registered voter, and you:

- will be absent from your county of residence on Election Day.
- are an election official.
- are confined on Election Day due to illness or injury.
- are 65 years of age or older.
- are a caretaker of an individual confined to a private residence due to illness or injury.
- are scheduled to work for the entire twelve hours that the polls are open (6a.m.-6p.m.) at the person's regular place of business

If you are eligible to vote absentee, you may vote in your county clerk's office or by mail before Election Day. First, you must complete an absentee ballot application and return it to your county election board. Second, you must vote at your county clerk's office or submit your ballot by mail.

Absentee voting in the clerk's office begins 29 days before the election and will include at least two Saturdays before Election Day.

New 2005 Election Provisions

Several changes were made to election laws in 2005, including:

SEA 14 changes the Indiana ballot format to lists candidates by office instead of by political party.

SEA 15 makes a number of changes to absentee ballots, including requiring a person assisting an absentee voter to sign an affidavit, prohibits separate parties from completing certain information on a voter registration application, and requires individuals casting absentee ballots in person to present proper identification. It also provides that an absentee voter must have a reasonable expectation of being unable to vote during the entire twelve hours the polls are open.

SEA 483 requires all voters to present a valid state or federal ID at the polls to be able to vote.

SEA 419 allows military and overseas voters to email ballots through a program administered by the U.S. Department of Defense.



Indiana State Senate
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Toll Free: (800) 382-9467
www.in.gov/senate_democrats

Indiana Voter Information Guide

*Including information
new election laws*

**Make sure your
vote counts!**

Provided by:

Indiana Senate Democrats